(b) in what manner it will help the country in oil sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the 15th session of the Indian-Iraqi joint commission for economic and technical cooperation held in Baghdad on 6th & 7th July, 2002, issues of mutual interest in the oil sector, relating to the upstream sector, downstream sector and supply of crude oil from Iraq were discussed. However, no agreement has been entered into.

Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

2199. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided a flat rate of subsidy on LPG and Kerosene immediately;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the consumers will be benefited from this subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As perthe Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), domestic LPG and PDS kerosene will continue to be subsidised post APM. The subsidy on these products will be on a specified flat rate basis from 1st April, 2002 and the retail price will vary as per the price changes in the international market. The flat rates of subsidy have not been assessed as yet.

India's Share in Global Tourism

2200. DR.T.SUBBARAMIREDDY:
SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister ofTOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that India and China will be the toppers in travel sector;

(b) whether Turkey has pushed India out of its first place position last year;

(c) whether according to theWTTC, India challenges Turkey to regain number one billing;

(d) if so, whether according to the WTTC, India is expected to grow at a rate of 9.7 percent over the next ten years with China at the third place; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) According to a research report released by the World Travel andTourism Council in August 2001, the GDP of Travel andTourism industry in India and China would register an annualised growth rate of 10 per cent and 9 per cent respectively between 2001 and 2011. In terms of this growth rate, India occupies the first position and China occupies the third position among the countries studied.

(b) and (c) The World Travel andTourism Council report referred to above does not say anything comparing India and Turkey.

(d) According to the World Travel andTourism Council report, Personal Travel andTourism Consumption of India would grow at 9.7 per cent per annum between 2001 and 2011 and that of China would grow at the rate of 8.5 per cent per annum.

(e)The various steps being taken to boost tourism in India are the following:

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a national priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Developing sustained and effective marketing plans and programs;

- Special thrust to rural and small tourism development; and
- To concentrate on issues relating to social and cultural values, good behaviour and civic administration and better administration.

Negligence of ASI

†2201. SHRIJANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that historical memorials, sites and heritages scattered throughout the country are facing danger to be ruined because of negligent attitude;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the situation has become grave as Archaeological Survey of India is not discharging its responsibilities;

(d) if so, whether Government are going to take some concrete steps to do away with the prevailing discrepancies therein and to make it accountable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has 3606 Centrally Protected Monuments which are being maintained with the available resources as per archaeological norms.

Allocation of funds forTemples in Madurai

2202. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of popularity and importance of Meenakshi Amman Temple and Lord KarthikTemple atTirupurakundram in Madurai;

(b) if so, wnetner any special funds are allocated by Archaeological Survey of India for their maintenance every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.